MORE ABOUT THE PAUL B. WILLIAMS ALS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM – By Linda Williams

My amazing husband of 49 years, Paul Williams, was diagnosed with ALS on February 18, 2014. He lost his courageous battle with that disease on November 29, 2016. We lived every day to the fullest during those two years. We traveled and did things together as much as we possibly could.

One of the reasons that we were able to take trips to the beach, go to the movies, and go to visit relatives was because we had an extremely nice wheelchair accessible van furnished by the VA. You see, Paul was a Vietnam era veteran and with the ALS diagnosis was considered 100% service connected disabled.

My children and I were so blessed to have had a loving father and husband. Paul made sure that we would not suffer financially after he was no longer with us. His life was one of caring and giving not only for his family, but also for his employees, his church and the community. I wanted to continue Paul’s legacy of love. I wanted to somehow help the ALS community.

After Paul passed away, I learned of another courageous sufferer of ALS who could not take trips with his wife or go visit his parents because he did not have a van that would accommodate his disability. My heart ached for that family. I wanted to help them so badly but did not know how. Suddenly it came to me that maybe, just maybe the ALS Association of Georgia could help me honor Paul’s life with a dream that I had of helping ALS patients to have their own wheelchair accessible van.

I met with Liza Nordmark and Juanita Pharr and asked if there was a program that provided unlimited use of wheelchair accessible vans for ALS patients. To my surprise there was not one. I then asked if it was possible to start such a program. They were elated but said that they would need to research the idea.

After Liza and Juanita spent months of hard work contacting partners and lawyers and months of drawing up contracts, my dream of honoring Paul’s legacy of caring and giving has come true. I am happy to say that the Paul B. Williams Transportation Program for ALS patients and their families is now a reality.

My hope is that this program will allow patients with ALS and their families to enjoy to the fullest their days together. My hope is that these brave warriors will be able to go wherever they can go in a van that will accommodate their disability. They will be able to travel with their families in a modern wheelchair accessible van, and they won’t have to pay anything at all.

Linda Williams
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